by private/JVCs and imports during the last three years was as under:—

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Production		Import
	Total	JVC/Private	
1995-96	35.167	0.650	27.342
1996-97	32.900	1.345	33.906
1997-98	33.858	2.514	34.494

(c) The investment made by private sector both Indian and foreign for exploration activity in exploration blocks and discovered fields during last three years is given below:

	95-96	96-97	97-98	Total
Amount US$(Million)	5.13	14.15	52.78	72.06

(d) The production of crude oil during the IXth Plan by ONGC/OIL/Pvt./JVC is estimated to as under:

(figs. in MMT)	
1997-98	- 33.858 (Actual)
1998-99	- 34.72 (MOU target)
1999-2000	- 36.550 (Estimated)
2000-01	- 37.221 (Estimated)
2001-02	- 36.978 (Estimated)

Efforts for exploration of oil by MNCs

1797. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item in the 'Economic Times' dated 10th February, 1999, captioned "India's efforts to draw oil, gas MNCs in exploration falters."

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not been successful in attracting oil companies to explore and produce oil in Indian territories; if so, the reasons for this lukewarm response;

(c) whether any alternative avenues are being explored by Government; and

(d) if so, details of strategies to exploit potential Indian oil and hydrocarbon resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Under New Exploration licensing Policy, 48 blocks have been offered for bidding to both private sector and public sector companies on terms which provide a level playing field to investors.

The last date for submission of bids is 18th May, 1999. It is therefore, too early to assess the response of companies including MNCs.

Use of surplus from oil pool account

1798. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to a fall in the international prices of oil, the oil pool account is estimated to generate a